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P O R T   O F   F O L K E S T O N E .

A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
F O R  
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R. F. H. McElligott, M.B., Ch.B.  
Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer.





PORT OF FOLKESTONE.

Public Health Department,  
Foord Road,  
FOLKESTONE.

March, 1957.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough and Port of Folkestone.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit the Annual Report on the medical aspect  
of the working of the Port of Folkestone for 1956.

During the year the regular boat services have been as follows:-

(1) Folkestone-Calais.

- (a) Daily passenger service by French steamer,  
Cote D'Azur, and reliefs by British Railways  
steamer from 1st January to 31st December, 1956.  
(Outward bound service took Golden Arrow passengers.)

(2) Folkestone-Boulogne. (British Railways steamers).

- (a) Daily evening passenger service from 5rd June to  
29th September, 1956, inclusive.
- (b) Daily morning passenger service from 29th June  
to 9th September, 1956, inclusive. An irregular  
service (four boats a week) was in force from  
3rd June until the commencement of the daily  
service and also during the period 11th to  
28th September, 1956.

Special excursion and "no-passport" trips were also run to  
France during the Summer season.

The usual cargo service was maintained to and from Calais and  
Boulogne.

A total of 629,393 passengers passed through the Port during  
the year; this figure showed an increase of 31,798 compared with  
1955.

The gross figures of passengers arriving at and departing  
from Folkestone for the past five years are:-

	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Inwards ..	260,975	224,526	277,388	310,646	323,438
Outwards..	237,622	219,363	251,803	286,949	305,955
Total ..	<u>498,597</u>	<u>443,889</u>	<u>529,191</u>	<u>597,595</u>	<u>629,393</u>

There has also been a further increase in the number of aliens  
arriving - 8,554 more than during 1955 - and 988 more aliens were  
medically examined compared with the previous year.

	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.
Aliens arriving ..	61,624	54,821	58,896	70,195	78,749
Aliens medically examined .. .. .	8,564	7,062	8,696	9,855	10,843
Certificates issued ..	20	12	11	17	108
Percentage of Aliens to whom certificates issued .. .. .	.23	.17	.12	.17	.99
Percentage of Aliens examined .. .. .	13.9	12.9	14.8	14.0	13.8

Prior to 1956 certificates on Form Port 12 were issued in all cases where the alien had a medical disability (which might affect his ability to support himself or his dependants), mental illness or pregnancy, but during the past year reports were also issued whenever an Alien came to this country for medical treatment (either at a hospital or elsewhere, privately or otherwise), had a physical defect, was (or suspected of being) pregnant, etc. In view of this new procedure 108 certificates were issued during 1956 compared with 17 for the previous year. Of these 108 aliens 23 were landed conditionally and 19 not permitted to land. Nearly one-third of the certificates were in respect of wives (mostly expectant) coming to join their husbands who were already working in this country.

The Aliens continued to come mainly from Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany and France.

The men came to be employed in the tinplate works, brickyards, iron foundries, tile works, hotels, and for technical and professional employment with firms; the women were mainly domestics, children's nurses and governesses, assistant hospital nurses, ward orderlies, textile and factory workers, etc.

In view of the steady increase in the number of Aliens coming to the U.K. for employment it is my opinion that each Alien coming to reside and work in the U.K. should be in possession of a certificate of health issued in the country of origin, and this should also apply to wives and children.

A similar view has been expressed by the Health Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations at their meeting held on the 14th November, 1956, when it was stated that whilst there is little to indicate that the present system is menacing the health of the country, for the most part the views expressed strongly favoured the introduction of a compulsory medical examination for all immigrants and that this examination should be carried out in the country of origin.

Twelve passengers in transit were medically examined; eleven were medical cases and one a mental patient. A child of 8 years, who had been unwell whilst in France, was in a diabetic coma upon arrival at Folkestone and immediately transferred to the local hospital.

A young German seaman aged 19 years, who was suffering from sub-acute appendicitis, was landed at the Harbour from an oil tanker which was proceeding to the Middle East. Arrangements were made for his admission to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Following the resignation of Mrs. D. Summerfield, S.R.N., C.M.B., who had held the appointment as Nurse-Attendant at the Folkestone Harbour since 1937, Mrs. L.F. Brann, S.E.A.N., was appointed as successor and commenced duty on the 1st June, 1956.





In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the efficient work carried out by the Medical and Nursing staff at the Harbour, and also to the unfailing and effective co-operation with us of the Immigration Officials, Customs Officials and Ships' staffs.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

R.F.H. McELLIGOTT,

Port Medical Officer.

Table A.

Name of Officer.	Nature of Appointment.	Date of Appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
R.F.H. McElligott.	Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer. (Temporary).	29.12.50.	M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.	Medical Inspector of Aliens. (Part-time).
L.H. Vale.	Chief Public Health Inspector for Borough and Port. Assistant Officer under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937-1948.	-1.10.49.	*M.R.S.H., Cert.S.T.B., M.A.P.H.I.	-
L.F. Pattman.	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector for Borough and Port. Assistant Officer under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937-1948.	-5.11.28.	*A.R.S.H., Cert.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	-
A. Stubbs.	Additional Port Health Inspector. Assistant Officer under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937-1948.	-1. 2.45.	*Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.	
A. Colgan.	Additional Port Health Inspector. Assistant Officer under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937-1948.	-3.12.51.	*M.R.S.H., Cert.S.I.B.	Additional Public Health Inspectors for the Borough of Folkestone.
S. Devey.	Additional Port Health Inspector. Assistant Officer under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937-1948.	-1.12.55.	*Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.	

## SECTION I - Staff.

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\*Also holds Royal Society of Health Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.  
Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department, Old Harvey Grammar School,  
Ford Road, Folkestone, Kent.  
Telephone No: Folkestone 2463.

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year

Table B.

Ships from:	Number.	Tonnage.	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having or having had infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Public Health Inspector.	
Foreign Ports ..	814	917,362	-	8	-
Coastwise .. ..	99	55,001	-	-	-
TOTAL ..	913	972,363	-	8*	-

\* These 8 vessels were regularly inspected on arrival in port.

Total number of inspections = 128.

SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

Table C.

Passenger Traffic ..	(Number of Passengers - INWARDS: 323,438. (Number of Passengers - OUTWARDS: 305,955.
Cargo Traffic ..	(Principal IMPORTS - General merchandise, wine and spirits, machinery and parts, cloth, printed matter, mushroom spawn, dates, preserved fruit, miscellaneous foodstuffs, lace, foliage, gold-fish, horses, perfumery. (Principal EXPORTS - General merchandise, agricultural and textile machinery and parts, fish, cattle, horses, whisky.
Principal Ports from which ships arrive - Calais and Boulogne.	

SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic.

Number and tonnage using the district and places served by the traffic.

N I L.



SECTION V - Water supply.

(1) Source of supply for -

(a) the district:

Water is obtained from the Folkestone and District Water Company, with the exception of a very limited supply from a source on British Railways own property which is used for flushing sanitary conveniences at the entrance to the harbour, and for re-filling tanks on locomotives.

(b) shipping:

Drinking water obtained from tanks filled from hydrants on quay side connected to town supply, viz., Folkestone and District Water Company.

(2) Reports of Tests for contamination.

Routine samples submitted for bacteriological examination proved satisfactory.

(3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

Hydrants and hosepipes periodically flushed through.

(5) Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

N I L.

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

(1) LIST OF INFECTED AREAS. (Regulation 6).

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

A list of infected areas has been prepared and amended from time to time by taking into account all information supplied by the Ministry of Health in the Weekly Record of Quarantinable Diseases, which was discontinued on 12th October, 1956 and subsequently the Weekly Epidemiological Record published by the World Health Organisation.

It is divided into the six quarantinable diseases (plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox, typhus and relapsing fever) and the various countries, localities and seaports which are infected or believed to be infected are shown under the appropriate disease.

These lists were sent by post to the Chief Customs Officer at the Folkestone Harbour.

(2) RADIO MESSAGES.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

Use of radio station controlled by Harbour Authorities, viz., British Railways Marine Department (Headquarters at Dover).

(b) Arrangements for receiving message by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulations 14(1)(a) and (2)).

All vessels normally using the Port are equipped with radio transmitting apparatus and arrangements have been made for notification of cases of suspected infectious disease.



- (3) NOTIFICATIONS OTHERWISE THAN BY RADIO. (Regulation 14(1)(b)).  
Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than  
by radio and for acting thereon.

This Port has no signalling station but arrangements would be made to get such notification through in an emergency.  
All vessels met by H.M. Customs and Port Health Inspectors.

- (4) MOORING STATIONS. (Regulations 22 to 30.)  
Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued  
under these Regulations.

- (a) Within the docks.

Their place of mooring, discharge or loading.

- (b) Outside the docks.

A point one mile South by West of Harbour Pier head.

No standing directions issued but action taken would be in accordance with these Regulations.

- (5) ARRANGEMENTS FOR -

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other  
than smallpox - see Section VII.)

At either the Dover or Ashford Isolation Hospitals or, in case of difficulty, application made to the Emergency Bed Service.

- (b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

In accordance with Sections 31 and 37 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952. Names and addresses would be taken and forwarded to Medical Officers of Health of areas to which the contacts were proceeding.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons,  
clothing and other articles.

No facilities exist for cleansing of persons on the Harbour. Baths available under the auspices of the Folkestone Corporation. Ships' quarters disinfected after infection. Clothing and other articles submitted to steam disinfection.

#### SECTION VII - Smallpox.

- (1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from  
the district.

Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, Kent.

- (2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by  
ambulance, giving the name of the authority responsible for  
the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Patients suffering from Smallpox would be removed by arrangement with the Canterbury City Ambulance Service, which authority is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

- (3) Name of Smallpox Consultant available.

Dr. Rex Fletcher of 30 Cheriton Gardens, Folkestone.  
(Tel. No: Folkestone 3688).

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

At the laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service which was previously situated at the County Hall, Maidstone, and transferred to Preston Hall, British Legion Village, Maidstone, with effect from 29th September, 1956. (Tel. No: Maidstone 7262.)

The Director of the laboratory is Dr. J.H.C. Walker.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under the international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Clinics under the control of Dr. D. Sharvill are available as follows:-

General Hospital, King's Avenue, Ashford ..	Mondays and Wednesdays. 11 a.m. to 12 noon.
Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover .. .. .	Mondays and Thursdays. 6 to 7 p.m.
Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.	Tuesdays and Fridays. 3 to 4 p.m.
General Hospital, St. Peter's Road, Margate	Tuesdays and Fridays. 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

In-patient treatment is available at all of these hospitals.

Where necessary full information supplied to seamen concerned.

By arrangement with the British railways authorities posters giving the latest details of these clinics are exhibited in the public conveniences on the Folkestone Harbour.

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

Table D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports ..	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-



A short account should be given of the measures taken on the arrival by ships of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus or relapsing fever included in Table D; (b) any suspected cases of any such disease.

No action necessary during the year.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

No cases occurred during the year.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No action necessary during the year.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

(1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

Formal inspections carried out by Dover Health staff and amplified by local Port Health Inspectors during course of routine inspection of vessels.

(2) Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Facilities exist for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents at the Public Health Laboratory Service, Preston Hall, British Legion Village, Midsstone. None of the rodents sent for examination during 1956.

(3) Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor  
Harbour district treated as necessary by Rodent Operators of the British Railways Southern Region and assistance given by the Borough Rodent Operator as required.

It has not been found necessary over the past few years for work of disinfection to be carried out on ships visiting this Port. If, however, such work were necessary the ships would be treated with Hydrogen Cyanide by the Fumigation Services Ltd., Barking, Essex, under the direction of the Dover Port Health Inspectors.

(4) Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Not found necessary.

Table E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category.	Number.
Black rats .. .. . )	N I L.
Brown rats .. .. . )	
Species not known .. .. . )	
Sent for examination .. .. . )	
Infected with plague .. .. . )	

Table F - NIL.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

None issued - Folkestone is not an approved port.

Certificates for vessels owned by the British Railways and using this port are issued by the Dover Port Health authority.



SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

Table G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections.		Notices served.		Result of serving Notices.
		Statutory Notices.	Other Notices.	
General inspection of crews' quarters, food preparing places, etc.	128	-	-	-
Total:	128	-	-	-

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations 1934 and 1948.

Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution. A report of any action taken, which should state whether any prohibited area has been prescribed, should be included.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of this authority.

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens (applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens).

(1) List of Medical Inspectors of Aliens holding Warrants of Appointment.

Name.	Date of Appointment.	Qualifications.
R.F.H. McElligott ..	28.10.49.	M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.
J.H. Campbell .. ..	16. 4.51.	M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
H. Yates .. . . .	-8.10.52.	M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
C.B. Findlay .. . .	28. 6.55.	M.B., Ch.B.

All the Medical Inspectors were employed on a part-time basis.

(2) List of other staff engaged on this work.

Name.	Nature of Appointment.	Date of Appointment.	Resignation.	Qualifications.
Mrs. D. Summerfield.	Nurse-Attendant (Part-time).	1937.	31.5.56.	S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V. and S.N. Cert. of R.S.H.
Mrs. L.F. Brann.	- do -	1.6.56.	-	S.E.A.N.

(3) Organisation of work.

Dr. R.F.H. McElligott, with the assistance of Mrs. L.F. Brann, who succeeded Mrs. D. Summerfield as Nurse-Attendant on the -1st June, 1956, is responsible for the organisation of the work.

Regular passenger boats are met by one of the Medical Inspectors and the Nurse-Attendant, and special arrangements made for other boats carrying aliens to be met.

Where prior information has been received (usually from the Immigration Officer or the Ministry of Labour) that a large number of aliens was expected to arrive at the same time, arrangements were made for extra staff to be present in order that the examinations could be completed with the minimum of delay.

(4) Nature and amount of aliens traffic.

The aliens arriving to take up employment in this country continue to come mainly from Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany and France.

A total of 10,843 aliens were examined during 1956 compared with 9,855 in 1955.

The men were mainly for employment in the tinplate works, brick and tile works, iron foundries, hotels and for technical and professional employment with various firms; the women were mainly domestics, children's nurses and governesses, assistant hospital nurses, ward orderlies, textile and factory workers.

A summary of the number of aliens arriving, examined and certificates issued during 1956 is set out below:-

- A. Total number of arriving vessels carrying aliens -
- |                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| (a) Passenger .. .. . | 582.        |
| (b) Cargo .. .. .     | 38.         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>         | <b>620.</b> |
- B. Total number of arriving aliens (excluding crews) 78,749.
- C. Total number of aliens medically examined .. 10,843.
- D. Reports and certificates for aliens medically examined:

Nature of report or certificate.		Total number of reports and certificates issued.	Aliens NOT PERMITTED to land.
A.	Unsound mind or mentally defective .. ..	1	1
B(1).	Undesirable for medical reasons .. ..	9	9
B(2)(a).	Inability to support .. ..	12	1
B(2)(b).	Likely to require medical treatment .. ..	85	8
C.	Conditionally landed for further medical exam.	1	-
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>108</b>	<b>19</b>



E. Transmigrants landing and medically examined .. .. Nil.

(5) Accommodation for medical inspection and examination.

A medical inspection room off the Harbour Station platform is available, but the usual practice of carrying out the examinations in cabins on board passenger ships has been continued.

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

A mortuary and adequate burial facilities are available in the district.

A new crematorium was opened in Folkestone on 5th June, 1956.

SECTION XVII - Food Inspection.

Information supplied by L.H. Vale, Esq., Chief Public Health and Food Inspector for Borough and Port of Folkestone.

(1) Summary of Foodstuffs imported during 1956.

FOODSTUFF.	BOULOGNE.		CALAIS.	
	tons	cwts.	tons.	cwts.
Dates .. .. .	1491	17	-	-
Cheese .. .. .	5	4	-	-
Fish (including preserved fish) ..	-	6	1	2
Nuts .. .. .	4	13	-	-
Preserved fruit .. .. .	6	15	58	5
Preserved meat .. .. .	10	9	1	2
Sausages .. .. .	-	12	-	-
	1519	16	40	9

Grand Total: 1,560 tons 5 cwts.

(2) Foodstuffs condemned.

8 Barrels of Monk Fish .. .. 7 cwts.  
1 Carton containing Crawfish .. .. 56 lbs.

(3) Visits to Port.

The Port Health Inspectors made 548 visits to the harbour during the year for the purpose of routine inspection of passenger and cargo boats and for the examination of all foodstuffs landed at the Port. This work entails considerable evening and week-end duty especially during the summer months. All the vessels which are regularly engaged on cross-channel traffic have been maintained in a very satisfactory condition.

(4) Number of Samples of Food examined by:-

(a) Bacteriologist: Nil.  
(b) Analyst: 2.  
(Chemical examination).



Sample No.	Nature of Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
96.	Cocktail Cherries.	Cherries preserved in syrup and flavoured with benzaldehyde (oil of bitter almonds). Free from sulphite preservative and prohibited colouring matter.	Satisfactory.
103.	Dehydrated Mushrooms.	Microscopical examination showed that the sample was the dried common mushroom. Free from preservatives and toxic metals.	Satisfactory.

5. Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1937 and 1948.

- (a) 1 case containing cans of sausage and pork meat.
- (b) 28 cases containing sausages.

The above arrived without Official Certificates and in both cases were landed from France. Importation was prohibited and the consignments were later re-exported.

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